

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 26-34 as follows:

1. (Original) A dehydrocoupling polycondensation method for synthesizing polymetallocles including:

obtaining a dihydrometallocle that includes silicon or germanium atoms;

designating a reducing agent for preparation of dihydrometallocle monomer;

measuring a predetermined molar percentage of said reducing agent corresponding to a molar amount of said dihydrometallocle;

selecting a catalyst; and

reacting said catalyst with said dihydrometallocle to obtain a polymetallocle.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of obtaining a dihydrometallocle comprises reducing a dichlorometallocle and subsequently catalytically dehydrocoupling the reduced dichlorometallocle to yield a polymer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of obtaining a dihydrometallocle comprises adding dichlorosilane to a solution of lithium and diphenylacetylene and subsequently catalytically dehydrocoupling a product to yield a polymer.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said obtained dihydrometallocle is 1,1-dihydro-2,3,4,5-tetraphenylsilole.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said obtained dihydrometallocle is 1,1-dihydro-2,3,4,5-tetraphenylgermole.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said reducing agent is designated as LiAlH₄.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said catalyst is Wilkinson's catalyst, which is Rh(PPh₃)₃Cl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising selecting said predetermined molar percentage of said Wilkinson's catalyst to be between 1 and 5 mol %.

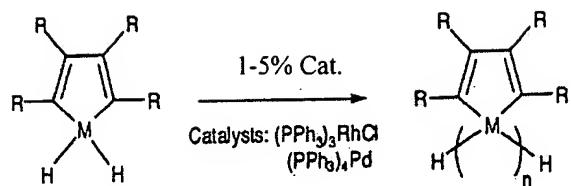
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said catalyst is selected to be Pd(PPh₃)₄.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising selecting said predetermined molar percentage of Pd(PPh₃)₄ to be between 1 and 5 mol %.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said catalyst is selected to a combination of H₂PtCl₆·xH₂O and allylamine.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising selecting said predetermined molar percentage of said H₂PtCl₆·xH₂O to be between 0.1 and 0.5 mol % and selecting said predetermined molar percentage of allylamine to be between 200 and 400 mol %.

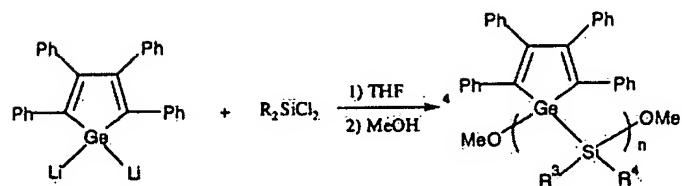
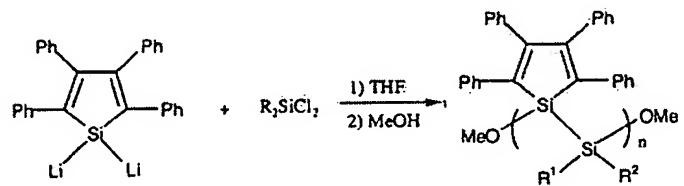
13. (Original) A catalytic dehydrcoupling method for synthesizing metallocle copolymers according to the following equation:



where R is a H or an alkyl or aryl group selected from the group consisting of Me or Ph; and

where M is selected from the group consisting of Si and Ge.

14. (Original) A Wurtz coupling polycondensation method for synthesizing metallocole copolymers according to the following equations:

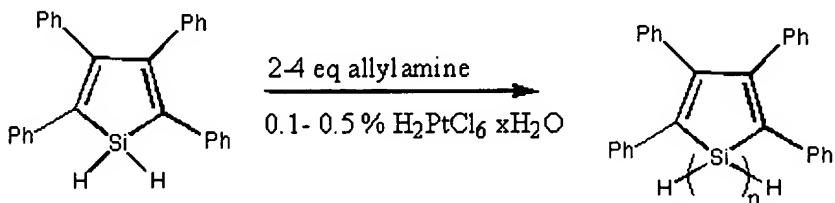


where Ph is a phenyl group, Me is a methyl group, and R is Me or Ph;

where the pair R¹ and R² are selected from the group consisting of: R¹= H and R²= Me; R¹= H and R²= Ph; R¹= Ph and R²= Ph; and R¹= H and R²= H; and

where the pair of R³ and R⁴ are selected from the group consisting of: R³=H and R⁴=Me; R³= H and R⁴= Ph; and R³= Ph and R⁴= Ph.

15. (Original) A catalytic dehydrcoupling method for synthesizing metallocle polymers according to the following equation:



16. (Original) A method for detecting an analyte that may be present in ambient air or complex aqueous media comprising:

providing a polymer or copolymer containing a metalloid-metalloid backbone;
exposing said polymer or copolymer to a suspected analyte or a system suspected of including the analyte; and
measuring a quenching of photoluminescence of the metallocle polymer or copolymer exposed to said system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting said provided polymer or copolymer to be a polymer or copolymer containing tetraphenylsilole.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting said provided polymer or copolymer to be a polymer or copolymer containing tetraphenylgermole.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting a metalloid-metalloid backbone of said provided polymer or copolymer group of Si-Si, Ge-Ge, and Si-Ge.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of providing a polymer or copolymer further comprises casting a thin film of said provided metallocene polymer or copolymer.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising depositing said prepared thin film on a glass substrate.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of exposing said polymer or copolymer includes submerging said polymer or copolymer in an aqueous solvent.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of exposing said polymer or copolymer includes submerging said polymer or copolymer in an organic solvent.

24. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising dissolving the polymer or copolymer in an organic solvent from the group consisting of toluene or THF.

25. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of exposing said polymer or copolymer includes submerging said polymer or copolymer in aqueous inorganic acids.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising selecting said aqueous inorganic acids from the group consisting of H_2SO_4 and HF.

2627. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of measuring a quenching of photoluminescence includes subjecting said polymer or copolymer to fluorescence spectrometry.

2728. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of providing a polymer or copolymer comprises dissolving the polymer or copolymer in solution.

2829. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of providing a polymer or copolymer comprises producing a colloid of the polymer or copolymer.

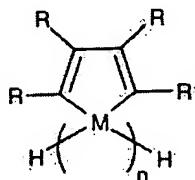
2930. (Currently amended) An inorganic polymer sensor for detecting nitroaromatic compounds comprising:

a substrate; and

a thin film of a metallocle polymer or copolymer deposited on said substrate.

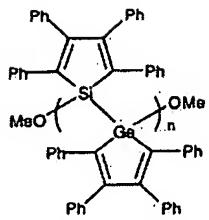
3031. (Currently amended) The sensor of claim 2930 wherein said substrate is glass.

3132. (Currently amended) The sensor of claim 2930 wherein said metallocle polymer or copolymer is represented by the structure



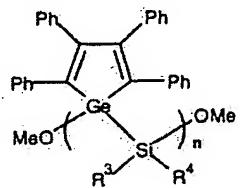
where R is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of H, Me, or Ph; and where M is selected from the group consisting of Si and Ge.

3233. (Currently amended) The sensor of claim 2930 wherein said metallocle polymer or copolymer is represented by the structure



where Ph is a phenyl group and Me is a methyl group.

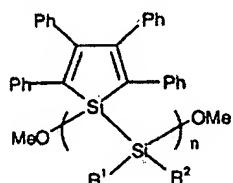
3334. (Currently amended) The sensor of claim 2930 wherein said metallocene polymer or copolymer is represented by the structure



where Ph is a phenyl group and Me is a methyl group; and

where the pair of R³ and R⁴ are selected from the group consisting of: R³= H and R⁴= Me; R³= H and R⁴= Ph; and R³= Ph and R⁴= Ph.

3435. (Currently amended) The sensor of claim 2930 wherein said metallocene polymer or copolymer is represented by the structure



where the pair of R¹ and R² are selected from the group consisting of R¹= H and R²= Me; R¹= H and R²= Ph; and R¹= Ph and R²= Ph.